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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:  
Bernd Georg-Pietras

Serial No.: 10/621,971

Confirmation No.: 2036

Filed: July 17, 2003

For: APPARATUS AND METHOD  
FOR FACILITATING THE  
CONNECTION OF TUBULARS  
USING A TOP DRIVE

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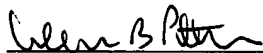
Group Art Unit: 3672

Examiner: Frank Tsay

Customer No. 36735

MAIL STOP AF  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING 37 CFR 1.8	
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop AF, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on June 8, 2005.	
<u>William B. Patterson</u>	<u></u>
Typed Name	Signature
<u>34,102</u>	<u>(713)623-4844</u>
Reg. No. if applicable	Telephone Number

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION DATED MAY 27, 2005

In response to the Office Action dated May 27, 2005, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire on August 27, 2005, please enter this response and reconsider the claims pending in the application for reasons discussed below. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge counsel's Deposit Account No. 20-0782/MRKS/0039.C1/WBP for any fees, including excess claims fees and extension of time fees, required to make this response timely and acceptable to the Office.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 8 of this paper.